

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The American people continue to demand a New Direction in Iraq and Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) continues to stand with them. Last night, Wilson voted for legislation to redeploy our troops, while providing our troops in harm's way the resources they need. It passed the House by a vote of 218 to 203.

“Setting a date certain gives Iraqis the incentive to work on things for themselves and to meet some benchmarks,” Wilson said.

President Bush has asked Congress for an additional nearly \$200 billion for Iraq, which would bring the total cost of the Iraq war to more than \$600 billion. What's more, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has estimated that, under the President's policies, the costs of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan could total \$2.4 trillion through the next decade. The bill passed by the House provides \$50 billion to meet the immediate needs of our troops, but defers consideration of the remainder of the President's nearly \$200 billion request.

The bill will require the immediate start of the redeployment of U.S. forces with a goal for completion of the redeployment by December 15, 2008.

In addition to an immediate redeployment start, the legislation:

- Requires the President to provide Congress, within 60 days of enactment, with a plan to complete the redeployment by December 15, 2008;
- Prohibits deployment of U.S. troops to Iraq who are not fully trained and fully equipped;
- Changes the mission of U.S. forces in Iraq to: a) diplomatic and force protection; b) targeted counterterrorism operations; and c) limited support to Iraqi security forces;
- Includes an extension to all U.S. government agencies and personnel of the current prohibitions in the Army Field Manual against torture.

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